

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 have been canceled without prejudice. Claim 20 is amended. Claims 20-29 remain in the application for consideration. In view of the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the subject application

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 20-24 were objected to as dependent on a rejected base claim, but were otherwise indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 20 has been amended to incorporate the features of claims 18 and 19 thus placing it in independent form. Accordingly, this claim and its dependent claims are allowable.

Claims 25-29 were indicated as allowable. Applicant has canceled the rejected claims simply to place the application in condition for allowance. This is not to be construed as an admission as to the propriety of the Office's rejections. As such, Applicant reserves its right to file additional continuation applications to pursue subject matter that it believes it is due.

Non-Statutory Double Patenting:

Claims 1-3, 5 and 11-20 stand provisionally rejected under the judicially-created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-3, 7, 12, and 13 of co-pending and commonly-assigned U.S. Application No. 09/991,526.

As this application has now issued, Applicant submits herewith a terminal disclaimer thereby obviating the rejection.

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Respectfully Submitted,

By: 

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